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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/633,145

07/31/2003

Ken L. Chang

K35A1301

5429

35219

7590

05/16/2006

EXAMINER

BLOUIN, MARK S

WESTERN DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES, INC.

ATTN: SANDRA GENUA

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LAKE FOREST, CA 92630

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2627

DATE MAILED: 05/16/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/633,145

Applicant(s)

CHANG ET AL.

Examiner

Mark Blouin

Art Unit

2653

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 3/13/06.
- 2a) ☒ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Detailed Action

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on September 29, 2005 has been entered.
2. Applicant filed a pre-appeal conference request on March 13, 2006. The applicant's arguments were found persuasive and the finality of the rejections of the last office action is withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Budde (USPub 2002/0163763).
3. Regarding Claims 1-9, Budde shows (Figs. 1-4), a disk drive comprising a disk drive base (102), a spindle (109) motor attached to the disk drive base, a disk (106) supported on the spindle motor, a head stack (116) assembly rotatably coupled to the disk drive base, the head

stack assembly including a stamped actuator arm [0048], a head gimbal assembly [0032] attached to the stamped actuator arm, the head gimbal assembly including a base plate ([0029], 202), and a trace suspension flex [0029, "flex circuit"] having a metal base layer and a plurality of conductors supported by the metal base layer (it is inherent that the circuit would have a plurality of metal conductors), the stamped actuator arm including an actuator arm side surface extending longitudinally along the stamped actuator arm, and a plurality of longitudinally spaced apart stamped protrusions (208,210,212) extending parallel to a top surface, at least one having a thickness that is substantially less than that of the actuator arm (Figs. 2 and 3 show that where the tabs are located (202) is thinner than the rest of the actuator arm), protrusions being in contact with the trace suspension flex [0029], each stamped protrusion extending from the actuator arm side surface in a direction generally perpendicular to the pivot axis, a plurality of stamped protrusions being an integer in a range between 2 to 3, wherein the integer is 2 or 3, wherein the stamped protrusions are generally equally spaced apart longitudinally along the actuator arm side surface, parallel to the top surface.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments filed March 13, 2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant asserts on page 2: The actuator arm cannot be equated to suspension.

The Examiner maintains that in paragraph Budde clearly discloses an arm (114) attached to the actuator (116). The suspension (112) and head gimbal assembly are integral parts of the actuator arm and comprise the full structure as an actuator arm.

Applicant asserts on page 2: "Where is the base plate?"

The Examiner maintains that Budde clearly discloses a base plate (202) which corresponds to Applicant's Figure 4, 43.

Applicant asserts on page 3: The actuator arm and suspension do not have the same structure and function.

The Examiner maintains that both the arm(114) and suspension (112) are cantilever beams that extend from the actuator to support and direct the tracking function.

Applicant asserts on page 6: The slider is not equivalent to the HGA.

The Examiner maintains that the slider (110) is an integral part of the HGA and that it is commonly understood in the art that it is attached to other structures (208,220) commonly composing part of the HGA. The Examiner does not equate or call the slider an HGA, but considers it a part of the entire assembly (a collection of parts to be assembled – Head (head slider 110) to Gimbal.)

Conclusion

5. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event,

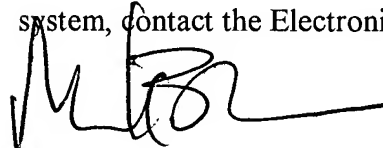
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however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mark Blouin whose telephone number is 571-272-7583. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 6:00 to 3:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hoa Nguyen, can be reached on 571-272-7579. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Mark Blouin
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2653
May 2, 2006

A. J. HEINZ
PRIMARY EXAMINER
GROUP ~~2653~~ 2627

